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Mail Stop Issue Fee Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

By Ron anton

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appln. No.

09/580,018

Confirmation No. 9973

Applicant Filed Dale B. Schenk May 26, 2000

TC/A.U.

1600/1647

Examiner

Christopher J. Nichols

Docket No.

15270J-004760US

Customer No.

20350

Mail Stop Issue Fee Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT AFTER ALLOWANCE UNDER 37 CFR § 1.312

Sir:

In response to the Notice of Allowance mailed December 3, 2003, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 6 of this paper.